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10/796,240	03/09/2004	Kazuhito Hatta	09792909-5821	2133
26263	7590	07/28/2008		
SONNIENSCHEN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP			EXAMINER	
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WACKER DRIVE STATION, SEARS TOWER				
CHICAGO, IL 60606-1080			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1795	
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			07/28/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/796,240	Applicant(s) HATTA ET AL.
	Examiner John S. Maples	Art Unit 1795

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2008.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 11-19 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 11-19 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 0/19/08

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

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1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 11-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

In the last line of claim 11, applicant has claimed "the thermoplastic layer has a width of 50 microns or less". There is no support for this limitation in the originally filed specification. It is noted that applicant has determined an orientation of the battery in claim 11 in view the language therein reciting the width of the sealing portion given in line 4 of claim 11. It is noted that this rejection was made in the final rejection, however no rebuttal has been made by applicant.

Claims 12-19, dependent on claim 11, fall therewith.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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4. Claims 11-13 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP-2001-176466. ('466)

Reference is made to the Abstract in '466 which discloses a lithium polymer battery which inherently includes a battery element including an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte. The battery in '466 comprises a housing including the layers as claimed by applicant-see paragraph 31 and numbers 6-8 which teach the specific layers. These specific examples in '466 teach a case comprising: a second resin layer/adhesive (thermoplastic layer)/metal layer/adhesive/a first resin layer-a modified polypropylene resin layer. It is noted that paragraph 29 in '466 recites the modified polypropylene with a maleic anhydride which would result in the claimed carbonyl group. As set forth in paragraphs 53 and 55, the adhesive (thermoplastic) layer is 3 microns in thickness which meets the claimed thickness. Finally, '466 sets forth in Figures 5 and 6 and paragraphs 47-48, a sealing edge portion of the case that is between 1 and 3 mm. The depth of the tray in '466 is about 3-5 mm which is about the same size as the edge sealing portion as seen in Figure 6.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that

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the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 11-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '466 taken in view of Eschbach et al.-US 5,631,103. (Eschbach)

The only claimed features not specifically taught by '466 are the width of the edge sealing portion and for the particular elements of the battery element. To have formed the width of the edge sealing portion in '466 of a distance of 1mm to less than 3mm would have been obvious because the same would allow for a secure between the layers to form a tight seal but still allow the battery to be used in a compact environment. Eschbach teaches a lithium polymer including a gel electrolyte, a carbon anode and a cathode comprising a lithiated complex of a transition metal in column 2, lines 35-67. To include the above teaching of Eschbach in '466 would have been obvious because '466 is directed to the same type of battery and the same is no more than a straightforward substitution in the lithium polymer battery art producing a battery of high output.

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John S. Maples whose telephone number is 571-272-1287. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John S. Maples/

John S. Maples
Primary Examiner
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